



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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Child Passenger Safety Month Poster Contest Winners Named

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health has selected the winners of the statewide Child Passenger Safety Month poster contest recently held to raise awareness about air bag safety.

Children from grades three through six created posters from safety messages shared with them during Child Passenger Safety Month in September. Winning posters were selected locally and sent to the Department of Health, which selected one poster from each grade. Statewide winners of the contest, each of whom will receive a “Buckle Up In The Back” MP3 player, are:

- Grade Three – Emily Laaveg from Park River Elementary School; Park River, N.D.
- Grade Four – Jaylea Schaible from Mott Elementary School; Mott, N.D.
- Grade Five – Emily Freeman from Rita Murphy Elementary School; Bismarck, N.D.
- Grade Six – Sarah Munro from Mt. Pleasant Elementary School; Rolla, N.D.

During Child Passenger Safety Month, public health agencies, law enforcement officers, Safe Kids coalitions and Safe Communities programs across the state conducted activities in their community schools to encourage children to buckle up in the back seat every time they ride in a vehicle. The students learned the following:

- Children 12 and younger should always ride buckled up in a rear seat.
- Front air bags come out when the front of the car contacts another object. For example, all it takes to deploy air bags is a car going approximately 25 to 30 miles per hour hitting another car or object. Most crashes occur close to home at slow speeds.
- Both lap and shoulder safety belts should be worn. The shoulder belt should be centered across the chest, and the lap belt should ride low on the hips.

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Visit the health department home page at www.ndhealth.gov.

- The shoulder belt should not be placed behind the back or under the armpit; this removes upper body protection. Without the shoulder belt, the upper body is forcefully thrown forward, which can cause head, neck and abdominal injuries.
- If an option, always use lap and shoulder belts, not just lap belts.

The winning posters can be seen on the Department of Health website at www.ndhealth.gov/injury (click on “Child Passenger Safety”). For more information, contact Dawn Mayer, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.4536.

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